

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* and toxic shock syndrome toxin-1 in liquids in contact with infants, said method comprising the step of:

diapering the infant with a dry diaper comprising a moisture absorbent, dry surface layer incorporating an effective amount of an antimicrobial compound selected from the group consisting of tetrahydroiso-alpha acids, hexahydro-beta acids, and mixtures thereof,

wherein the effective amount inhibits the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus*,
wherein the effective amount is 0.1 ppm to 100 ppm based on the liquids, and
wherein the liquids are acidic.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said diaper is a disposable diaper, and said method inhibits toxic stress syndrome.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said compound is applied to the diaper dissolved in a liquid selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, propylene glycol, glycerin, polyglycols, and mixtures thereof, and said diaper is subsequently dried so as to be dry to the touch.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A dry diaper comprising a moisture absorbent, dry surface layer incorporating an antimicrobial compound selected from the group consisting of tetrahydroiso-alpha acids, hexahydro-beta acids, and mixtures thereof, said antimicrobial compound being effective against toxic shock syndrome, wherein said antimicrobial compound is present in sufficient quantity to inhibit the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* in liquids with which it is in contact, wherein the quantity is 0.1 ppm to 100 ppm based on the liquids, and wherein the liquids are acidic.

Claims 5-7 (Cancelled).